

Thiru S.X. Swamikannu Endowment Lecture
Department of English
Loyola College, Chennai - 34

Preface

Thiru S.X. Swamikannu Endowment Lecture is instituted in remembrance of Rev. Dr. Xavier Alphonse's father. Rev. Dr. Xavier Alphonse is a dignified academician who taught English and also served as the Principal of Loyola College, Chennai - 34. The endowment lecture was instituted in the year 2012. Since then, the department had had illustrious and illuminating lectures under various topics, focusing on Literary Criticism and new avenues of literature. In the academic year 2021 - 2022, the department has decided to conduct a lecture with special focus on societal implications which may inspire the learners of our department to march forward with renewed thinking. The lecture was planned to be held on April 05, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Dr Jaydeep Sarangi. The agenda of the meeting was having Dr K.S. Antonysamy to introduce the dynamics of the topic and welcome the Chief Guest. As part of the lecture, II PG students presented a few interesting questions which was surveyed by Dr Jaydeep Sarangi himself when meeting various Dalit writers over the span of his career. After the lecture, the students had fruitful interaction with the chief guest which he himself acclaimed he would remember all the days of his life.

Biography Note on Dr Jaydeep Sarangi

Dr Jaydeep is a renowned scholar, profound writer and distinguished academician. At present, he serves as the Principal of New Alipore College, West Bengal. As a teacher, Dr Jaydeep has had an experience of 30 years. As a researcher, translator and writer, he enjoys a never-ending journey. He interviewed great minds like Bama, Limbale and Kalyani Thakur. His important publications include Bangala Dalit Writer Writes Back, Subaltern Speaks: Selected Essays on Sharankumar Limbale. His expertise in subjects include Dalit Literature, Australian Literature and Literature of Aborigines. He is an excellent orator and the most humble human being who could inspire the students of Loyola College.

Dr K.S. Antonysamy's Briefing & Welcoming

Dr K.S. Antonysamy, the Head, Department of English, Loyola College, presented the dynamics of the Endowment Lecture by exploring the various aspects of Dalit Literature. He also had welcomed the Chief Guest along with others. Dr K.S. Antonysamy made a

perfectly befitting introduction for the occasion. Dalit literature, as he posited, is a body of texts produced by writers whose caste background used to be referred to as “Untouchable” or “scheduled caste”, and whose writing engages with caste, caste discrimination, and Indian life from a Dalit point of view. He rightly pointed out that Dalit itself is a way of living in line with our age old tradition by practice them in our daily life. The Dalit aesthetics are always present in every aspect of peaceful coexistence in the society which when triggered there is always a possibility of great revolution. After presenting the dynamics, he introduced the chief guest, Dr Jaydeep Sarangi. Dr Jaydeep is an academic superstar whose achievements speak volumes. He is truly multifaceted. He is a writer, translator and refined academician, based in Kolkata. He heads New Alipore College, West Bengal. Dr K.S. Antonysamy also referred to him a true ‘Scholar Gypsy’ whose dynamism has to be imbibed by every faculty and student. The chief guest was felicitated by Dr Preethi Shanthini.

Roleplay of Dr Jaydeep’s Interviews

The most innovative part of the Endowment Lecture which the Chief Guest himself was of great awe is Roleplay of Dr Jaydeep’s interviews. Dr Jaydeep interviewed many Dalit writers like Bama Faustina, Kalyani Thakur Charal, Sharankumar Limbale, etc. Our II MA Students, -Manoj Marlon as Prof. Jaydeep Sarangi, Preethi Agarna as Bama Faustina, Ashish I Singh as Kalyani Thakur Charal and Antony Deepak Raj as Sharankumar Limbale roleplayed the interview in an enhanced and enlightened manner that moved Dr Jaydeep and he exclaimed he would remember it the rest of his life. Our students had presented a few crucial excerpts from Dr Jaydeep’s interviews with various writers from significant parts of India.

Snippet of Dr Jaydeep Sarangi’s Lecture

Dr Jaydeep Sarangi’s lecture focussed on three important aspects of Dalit Literature. The first one is how Dalit literature is contextual and at the same time, absorbs in itself universal appeal which in modern term can be defined ‘glocal’. Along with the context, dalit literature is exponent of local culture and tradition which are richly building nation’s heritage in every aspect. Secondly, he insisted how translation plays a vital role in assimilating such local culture into an international level. He reckoned students also to translate their own culture into English. He insisted that translation is a call to everyone so that our richly heritage becomes universally applicable. Thirdly, he highlighted how Dalit aesthetics is pervasive in our daily life. He elicited that Dalit aesthetics is our way of life by referring to the interviews he had had with aforementioned writers. Finally, he inspired the students to continuously write and engage themselves to become activists

by replicating leaders like Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, Dr Ambedkar, etc. He requested the students to read “Long Walk to Freedom” which opens their eyes to vast gamut of possibilities and positivity. Dr Jaydeep, as a writer, translator and teacher, is inspiring, illuminating and encouraging. His lecture is a timely topic to be discussed in an increasingly communal agitation in India. The Department is sure that it had attempted to make the students relish the words of Dr Jaydeep.

Note of Gratitude

At the culmination of the event, Dr Jaydeeps’ book, titled, *Unbound*, was released and the first copy was received by Dr K.S. Antonyamy. The Department profusely thanks Prof. Tisha for having compered the entire program, Dr Kannan Prasad for delivering the vote of thanks, the department choir for rendering a beautiful prayer song and the entire team for having organised such a memorable endowment lecture.